# ON THE GRAND

On the Grand is a quarterly publication distributed by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member-municipalities and other interested persons and groups. It contains capsule news items concerning Conservation Authority programs and projects throughout the valley. Comments and suggestions will be welcome.

*Administration Office:*
*400 Clyde Road*
*Box 729 Cambridge, Ontario*
*N1R 5W6*
*Telephone (519) 621-2761*
*Fax: (519) 621-4844*

Volume 18 - Number 1

Spring 1990

## GRAND RIVER NOMINATED AS A CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVER

On Heritage Day, February 19, the Minister of Natural Resources, Lyn McLeod, announced that the Grand River had successfully received its nomination for designation under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. "The Grand is the first river situated in a densely populated region of Canada to be nominated as a heritage river," said McLeod.

The nomination should lead to the river's designation, which will draw attention to the remarkable heritage and natural features along the Grand and its major tributaries. Many older structures on the river, such as historic homes, mills, factories and canals, look as they did during the early industrialization that took place along the river in the 19th century.

Although designation does not carry any regulatory force, it will draw attention to the importance of preserving a unique river system that is under increasing environmental and developmental pressure.

## Reflections on "Grand River Reflections"

As highlighted in the last edition of "Your Valley", the long awaited "Grand River Reflections" went on sale in late November, and 70 per cent of the initial print run of five thousand copies was sold out by Christmas. To date, the book has raised over $90,000 for projects of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation.

*In recognition of his valued contribution, Colwyn Rich of Champlain Industries received a framed cover of "Grand River Reflections" from Grand Valley Conservation Foundation President Bob Murray at the Foundation's Third Annual Fund Raising Dinner.*

## Foundation Fund Raising Dinner a Success

Over 190 people attended the Third Annual Grand Valley Conservation Foundation Fund Raising Dinner at the Valhalla Inn in Kitchener on February 1. The funds raised by the dinner, totalling $14,000, will help to finance the Foundation's activities in the coming year.

Foundation President Robert Murray delivered the keynote address, and presented a framed cover of "Grand River Reflections" to Colwyn Rich of Champlain Industries, who helped to finance the publication of this popular book.

## Flood Co-ordinator's Meeting

Representatives from municipalities and police forces across the watershed attended the Annual Flood Co-ordinator's Meeting, February 21 at the GRCA Head Office.

Director of Water Management, Tony Smith, informed everyone that this year's test of the Flood Warning System had been very successful, with 85 per cent of respondents replying within two hours of the release of the message.

This year's keynote speaker was Superintendent David Cassels from the Edmonton Police Department. He spoke on the emergency planning that he co-ordinated in response to the devastating tornado that hit Edmonton in 1987.

*University of Waterloo student Tricia Gardner was the fourth recipient of the Marcel Pequegnat Scholarship, presented by Foundation President Bob Murray last November.*

## Tricia Gardner Awarded Scholarship

University of Waterloo student Tricia Gardner received the $1,500 Marcel Pequegnat Scholarship from Foundation President Bob Murray on November 29. Ms. Gardner has completed her third year Honours Bachelor of Environmental Studies, and she is presently enrolled in an Environment and Resource Studies/Recreation joint honours program with a geography minor.

During her acceptance speech she expressed how pleased and surprised she was to hear about her choice as recipient while working last summer in the Yukon, far from any usual mail routes.

## Modest Increase in 1990 Budget

On February 28, the Authority General Membership approved a 1990 budget of $18,643,659, which represents a modest increase from the 1989 budget of $17,729,224. Due to increased funding from the Province of Ontario, the Authority was able to reduce its general municipal levy from a proposed 11.95 per cent to 6.04 per cent. This reduction was good financial news to concerned municipalities in the watershed.

## Executive Committee and Membership Changes

At the Conservation Authority's Annual Meeting on February 28, many members expressed concern about the lack of word from the Province concerning the re-appointment of Chairman James Bauer. As an interim measure, Mr. Bauer was re-elected chairman, but at a subsequent Executive Committee meeting on March 9, a letter was received from Mr. Bauer indicating that he did not wish to stand for re-appointment.

Archie MacRobbie, the Reeve of Puslinch Township, was re-elected as Vice-Chairman, and will serve as the head of the Conservation Authority until a General Membership meeting on April 27, at which time an election of officers will be held.

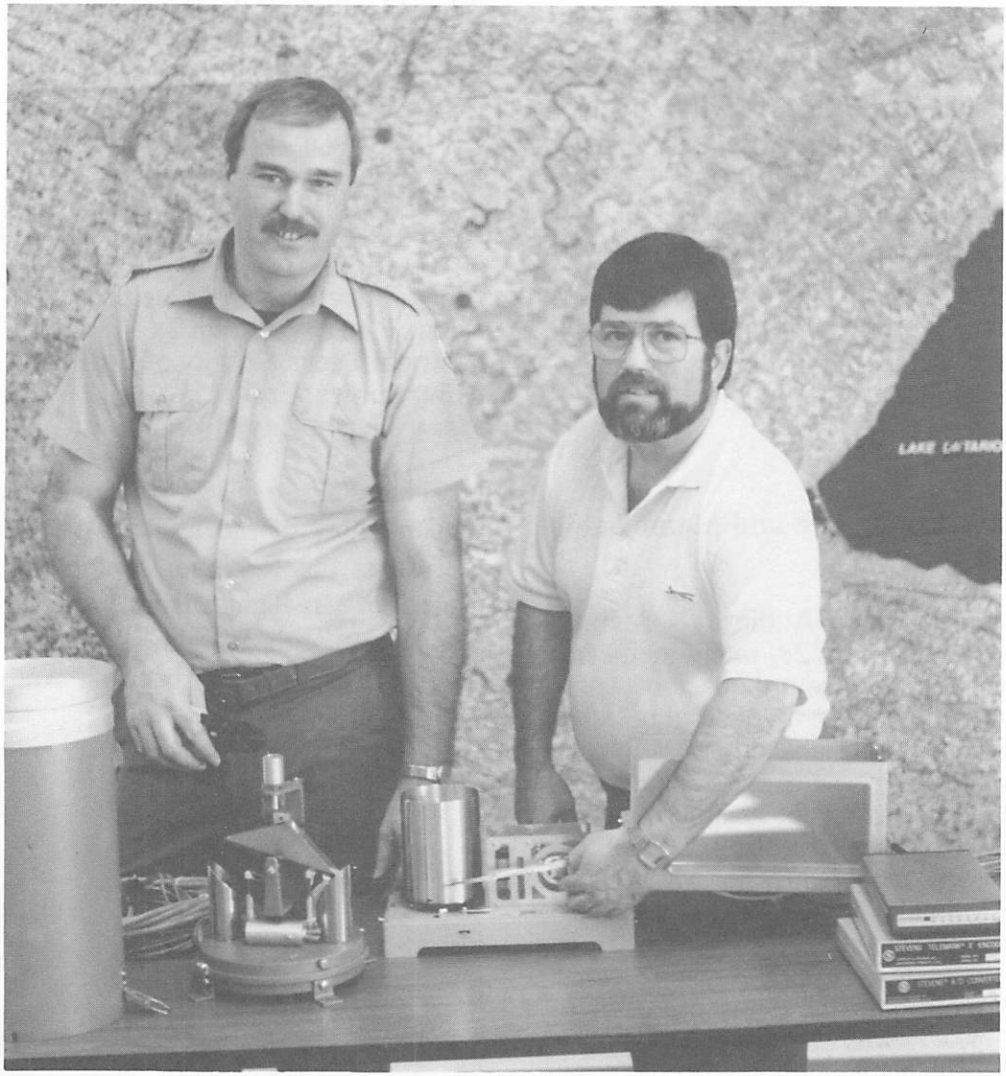
A new appointment to the General membership was Barry Lee, who replaced Don MacMillan as the Member from the Regional Municipality of Halton. Mr. Lee is a Councillor for the Town of Milton and a life-long watershed resident with a keen interest in conservation.

Other Members of the Executive re-elected were:

**Lorne Brown**, Group 1;
**Graham Bush**, Regional Municipality of Waterloo;
**Ronald Eddy**, Group 8;
**Hugh T. Lemon**, Regional Municipality of Waterloo;
**Clara Marett**, City of Guelph;
**Lorne Murray**, Group 2;
**Kenneth Peers**, County of Oxford;
**Allan Snowe**, Group 5;
**Mary Welsh**, City of Brantford.

Mr. Peter Krause was also elected as a first time member of the Executive where he represents the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Mr. Krause is an Associate and Consultant with Wright Mogg and Associates Ltd., and has been an Authority member since 1986.

*Mr. Peter Krause, representing the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, was elected as a new member to the Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting on February 28.*



*On February 1, Assistant Inspector of Dams, Ron Bloomfield and Inspector of Dams, Jerry Brousseau held a half day information meeting about the Authority's new Sierra Misco precipitation gauges. Conservation Area Superintendents and Assistants attended and shared news about problems and solutions in using the old gauges, as well as the new ones. These instruments are an integral part of the Conservation Authority's river flow forecasting and flood warning system.*

*Skiing is believing at Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area for a group of students from Woodman/Cainsville School in Brantford. In spite of variable snow conditions, winter recreational use at Pinehurst has been at about the same level this season as it was last winter.*

*Edmonton Police Department Superintendent David Cassels showed two fascinating videotapes of tornado footage, when he spoke on emergency planning at the Annual Flood Coordinator's Meeting in February.*

## Solicitor's Fee Increases

The Solicitor's Inquiry Fee, which was instituted two years ago, and generated over $100,000 last year toward the cost of processing solicitor's inquires, increased from $25 per request to $35 on March 1. Solicitor's inquiries vary in nature, but the most common request focusses on whether or not the Authority has any regulatory concerns about property transactions or development proposals.

## New Staff Appointments

The Authority welcomed three new staff members over the last few months. Joanne Shewchuk has joined the Administrative Services Division as Supervisor Offices Services, and Sandi Zvaniga has joined the same division as Accounting Assistant. Joanne had been working as Accounting Assistant with a chartered accounting firm in Kitchener. Previously, Sandi was Customer Service Representative at the Waterloo Regional Credit Union in Cambridge.

Lorraine Wilson is the new Mapping Clerk/Secretary in Water Management, and had been working as Staff Assistant in the Production Control Department at Toyota Motor Corporation.

## 1990 Annual Report Slide Show

You don't have to worry about which video to rent on Saturday night any longer. The 1990 Annual Report Slide Show is now available on video for anyone who missed the screening on March 2 at the GRCA Head Office. This 11 minute VHS tape surveys the activities of the Authority in 1989 and can be borrowed at no charge from the Communications Section.

*Accounting Assistant Sandi Zvaniga, Mapping Clerk/Secretary Lorraine Wilson and Supervisor Office Services Joanne Shewchuk have recently joined the Conservation Authority.*

## The Grand Experience — The Exhibit

Conservation Authority staff displayed a new exhibit that highlights fishing in the Grand and our Conservation Areas at the Great Outdoors Sports Show at Bingeman Park and Hamilton Sportsman's Show in early February. This attractive exhibit caught the attention of many visitors who stopped to talk. Approximately 3,000 visitors picked up brochures with information about "The Grand Experience".

*Water from the Nith River covered Jacob Street in New Hamburg in the spring of 1975.*

Many visitors in Hamilton expressed surprise at the size of fish available in the Grand, and many people visiting the Bingeman show complimented the Authority for its role in improving water Quality and fish habitat in the watershed.

### Catch and Release Program

Now there is a way for visitors to Grand River Conservation Areas to help improve fishing opportunities. It's called the "Catch and Release" program.

Simply put, you safely release the fish you catch back into the water. This way, you have all the fun of fishing and landing the "Big One", while helping to conserve our valley's valuable fish population.

*Community Relations Officer Rod Deacon and Environmental Youth Corps Technician Robert Baldwin handled 'fish stories' at "The Grand Experience" display in Kitchener.*

## New Hamburg Special Policy Area

The commercial core area of New Hamburg on the Nith River has been designated as a Special Policy Area. This designation means that new business development and re-development will be permitted downtown as long as certain flood proofing requirements are met by the new structures. The change in designation also allows limited residential use above the new buildings. For more information on this change, contact the New Hamburg Town Hall or the Policy and Planning Division of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

## New Contracts Let

Two contracts have been let by the Conservation Authority. One is to Marshall Macklin and Monaghan of Don Mills for $55,000 to carry out mapping of the Lake Erie shoreline. The other contract was awarded to Lackie Industrial Contractors of Kitchener for $180,000 to build an inspection deck at the Shand Dam.

## Jim Muir Completes 25 Years of Service

It's hard to believe that such a young looking man completed 25 years of service with the Conservation Authority last year. Jim Muir started with the Authority in 1964 as the Assistant Superintendent at Belwood Conservation Area. His starting rate was $1.10/hr and he was told by his supervisor, Hugh Cameron, that staff were not allowed to have any coffee breaks. At that rate, he probably couldn't have afforded coffee anyway.

Jim was hired to be trained as a dam operator, a function which currently forms a major part of his responsibilities at the Guelph Dam. Before his arrival at Guelph Lake in the 1970s, however, he was superintendent of Rockwood and Elora Gorge Conservation Areas.

Jim has seen many positive changes at the Authority over the years he has worked here. He feels that one of the most beneficial initiatives was the recent establishment of regular meetings by the Conservation Area Superintendents to discuss areas of mutual concern.

He once raced stock cars and now enjoys sailing his 18 foot Cataraman. He's looking forward to early retirement, but we hope that this doesn't come soon.

*Jim Muir, who is presently Superintendent of Guelph Lake Conservation area, completed 25 years of service with the Authority in 1989*

This special issue of On the Grand was edited by Communications Staff, and designed and laid out by Journalism students from the Doon Campus of Conestoga College.